REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of this application. Claim 24 and 51 were amended to clarify aspects of the present invention. Claim 25 was canceled without prejudice. New claims 59-66 were introduced for consideration. No new matter was added. Therefore, claims 24, 26-36 and 51-66 remain pending in this application.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 24, 26, 28, 29 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Netscape Proxy Server Administrator's ("N.P.S.A.") Guide (version 3.5 for Unix). Applicant respectfully traverses for the following reasons.

The N.P.S.A. apparently discloses an administrator guidebook for configuring Netscape proxy server software.

Aspects of the claimed invention, as recited in independent claim 24, are directed to a method for caching secure content in a secure reverse proxy (SRP) includes determining if the requested content is a static content and then securely storing that static content at the SRP using an encryption key that is only known to the SRP. If the requested content is not a static content, then it is not stored at the SRP as it mostly likely is unique to a specific secure session. Advantageously, static content can now be cached in a secure environment thus allowing a primary web server to not be bogged down by requests for static content. Instead, the web server's capabilities are freed up to more efficiently process requests for unique, secure content. In marked contrast, the N.P.S.A.

and standard secure protocols simply do not disclose, alone or in combination with each other, the claimed method of securely caching secure static content.

Claims 26, 28, 29 and 36 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 24 and are allowable at least for the reasons set forth for this independent claim. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 24, 26, 28, 29 and 36 is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 25, 27, 30-32 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the N.P.S.A. in view of Bellwood (WO01/03398 A2). Claims 51-55 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the N.P.S.A. in view of Maruyama (U.S. Patent Application, publication no. US2002/0015497 A1).

The N.P.S.A. was previously summarized. Bellwood apparently discloses a method of enabling a proxy to participate in a secure communication between a client and a set of servers. The method begins by establishing a first secure session between the client and the proxy. Upon verifying the first secure session, the method continues by establishing a second secure session between the client and the proxy. In the second secure session, the client requests the proxy to act as a conduit to a first server. Thereafter, the client and the first server negotiate a first session master secret. Using the first secure session, this first session master secret is then provided by the client to the proxy to enable the proxy to participate in secure communications between the client and the first server. After receiving the first session master secret, the proxy generates cryptographic information that enables it to provide a given service (e.g., transcoding) on the client's behalf and without the first server's knowledge or participation. If data

the first server, the proxy issues a request to the client to tunnel back through the proxy to the second server using the same protocol.

Maruyama apparently discloses a license hub that includes a hub apparatus to which one or more apparatus and devices can be electrically connected, and a safe storage device for storing therein keys used to decode the encrypted contents data is added to the existing system to construct a license network. A controller of the license network acquires the information of various kinds of apparatuses and devices which are electrically connected to the license hub, and determines automatically the apparatus and/or the device suitable for executing the processing when carrying out the playback of contents or movement of the key to execute these processes.
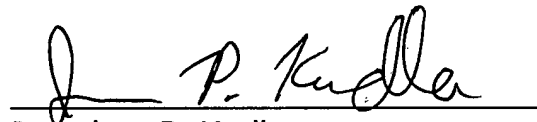
For reasons similar to those put forth for independent claim 24, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25, 27, 30-32, 34-35, 51-55 and 58 are also allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 25, 27, 30-32, 34-35, 51-55 and 58 is respectfully submitted.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The amendment was made to expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of the amended claims and reserves the right to re-introduce them and claims of an equivalent scope in a continuation application.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel at the number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
PERKINS COIE LLP

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Jonathan P. Kudla
Reg. No. 47,724

Customer No. 22918
Perkins Coie LLP
P.O. Box 2168
Menlo Park, CA 94026
Telephone: (650) 838-4300